

Korea has reduced the number of vessels licensed to fish in the area. We will continue to press it to withdraw completely.

Canada has also spearheaded international efforts to improve the effectiveness of international law as it pertains to high seas fish stocks.

[*Translation*]

A major objective for Canada in this legal initiative is international recognition of the special interest of coastal states, like Canada, in conservation and management of fish stocks which are also harvested both inside and outside national fishing zones.

Canada will be taking its proposals on high seas fisheries conservation to the United Nations Convention on the Environment and Development—the earth summit—in Rio de Janeiro to seek international support for improvements to high seas conservation.

The Canadian delegation is active at the current prepcom for UNCED in New York and support for our approach is growing.

A comprehensive Canadian information campaign has underlined the ecological risks of overfishing and called on the European public to oppose foreign overfishing in the northwest Atlantic. A number of you have participated in the parliamentary delegations that have taken our message to Europe.

The minister of fisheries himself has travelled to London, to Tokyo and to New York to speak on the need for effective control of international fisheries, and will visit other capitals over the coming months to build up support for Canada at NAFO and the Rio summit. These are some of the ways we are working to end foreign overfishing outside Canada's 200-mile limit.

The new scientific evidence serves again to confirm the devastation of the northern cod stock by the relentless foreign overfishing and seeming disregard of NAFO's rational conservation decisions in the nose and tail of the Grand Banks outside the 200 mile zone.

[*English*]

I can assure the members of this House that during 1992, efforts to end foreign overfishing will continue to be a top priority of this government.

The Prime Minister, my colleague the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and I have repeatedly and at every opportunity registered with our colleagues in the Com-

munity that the northwest Atlantic fishery, especially northern cod, is in serious trouble because of continued and excessive overfishing by EC vessels.

It may seem to have produced very little by way of results but it is like water dripping on a stone and we are seeing growing alarm in Europe concerning this issue.

We have made clear that it is an issue of critical importance for Canada. The EC and non-members of NAFO must recognize and address this issue seriously. If this important resource is to be saved, this country must bring its fleets under effective control in compliance with NAFO conservation decisions. Ultimately their own fishery is also at risk besides our own and if a concern for the environment is not something to which they will pay attention, then surely in their own self-interest, they will start to pay attention.

I want to quote briefly from a report by the Secretary-General of the United Nations who underlined in eloquent terms the dimension of the problem and I quote:

The elaboration of the law of the sea regime for the rational management and conservation of high seas living resources is now firmly inscribed in the international agenda. While this may be in large part attributable to the large-scale drift-net fishing issue, it is to be emphasized that this issue is but one symptom of the larger problems confronting world fisheries within national jurisdiction and beyond. Another symptom is the report of problems of overfishing by distant-water fishing fleets in the proximity of EEZ's.

The United Nations General Assembly took up this issue for the first time at our request, at the request of this government, in 1989 and it expressed concern regarding the use of fishing methods and practices on the high seas that can have an adverse impact on the conservation and management of the living resources of the marine environment. That was elaborated in 1990 and we intend to use as well all of the countries that will be going to the UNCED in June in Rio to keep reinforcing this on a broadly-based international scale so that pressure can be brought to bear on the main culprits.

The General Assembly, as a result of our efforts, adopted a resolution that criticized fishing methods and practices such as vessel reflagging and inadequate surveillance control and enforcement aimed at evading the regulation and control of high seas fisheries. This, of course, has given us the opportunity and the ammunition that we need as the Government of Canada in this regard. It recognized that the measures now in place to conserve and manage the living resources of the high